

CHRB NEWS & REVIEW

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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PLENTY OF R&R FOR RACETRACK WORKERS

By Mike Marten
Editor News & Review

When the horses are safely put away in their stalls and the work is done, backstretch employees throughout California spend their leisure time on more relaxing activities.

Many turn to sports and other recreational pastimes. Others take advantage of educational opportunities. Still others get involved in group events, some involving the church. And, of course, there's always television. All of the employee sleeping rooms at Hollywood Park are wired for cable.



ADRIANA SIERRA
"GROOM ELITE"

Workers in racetrack stable areas are just like residents of other California communities when it comes to needing entertainment to fill their off hours. But whereas budget problems are forcing many communities to cut back severely on recreational and educational programs, workers in the California horse-racing industry have a growing list of diversions to choose from.

The abundance of programs for industry employees is due largely to the efforts of the California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT), which has the legal responsibility to provide for the welfare

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The California Horse Racing Board is distributing two videos titled "Racing Chemistry 101 – A Level Playing Field" and "Changing Perceptions" that should help increase public confidence in the integrity of horse racing.

One of the videos, developed by the CHRB and the University of California at Davis with assistance from Frank Stronach and California racetracks, provides an overview of CHRB regulation, especially in the area of equine drug testing and the operation of the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at Davis.

The second video, developed by CHRB Commissioner Alan Landsburg with the cooperation of racetracks, demonstrates the integrity of the pari-mutuel wagering system and explains why the odds continue changing while a race is in progress.

The CHRB believes it is important to inform government officials, the news media, the horse-racing industry, and the general public about efforts to regulate the sport of horse racing and to ensure its integrity. The two videos are part of that effort.

More than 100 copies of each video are being distributed to key individuals, organizations, and elected officials throughout California and the United States.

We encourage the racetracks to show the videos, in their entirety or in selected segments, to their patrons at the track and on televised racing programs, such as nightly replay shows, TVG, and HRTV. We also urge racing organizations to show the videos to their membership.

We acknowledge there have been instances when certain individuals have attempted to gain unfair, illegal advantages in horse racing, but we believe this practice is not nearly as widespread as some people believe. The videos support our belief that the industry is well-regulated.

The Board thanks those whose generous contributions made these videos possible – further examples of the tremendous resources and personal commitments that unify and strengthen the California horse-racing industry.

Roy C. Wood, Jr.
Roy C. Wood, Jr.



IN THE GOLDEN STATE

INFLUENCE OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING EXTENDS FAR BEYOND ITS BORDERS

Racing officials from South Korea and Great Britain spent time with California stewards learning about our system. It seems like everyone wants to know how we do things in California.

When the American Quarter Horse Association held its annual convention in Anaheim earlier this year, some delegates debated the merits of requiring horseshoers who work at racetracks to be tested and licensed.

“How do they do it in California?” one delegate asked a representative of the California Horse Racing Board, who explained that applicants must pass a comprehensive examination before the Board issues them a license to work as a farrier at California racetracks.

The question came up many times in a variety of contexts during the AQHA convention. Everyone seemed interested in learning how we do things in California.

Similarly, when a reporter for an important Eastern newspaper telephoned the CHRB as part of his research for a major article he was writing on the use of medication in horse racing, he explained, “I’ve spoken with quite a few people around the country already, and they keep referring me to some expert or some regulation or procedure in California.”

The CHRB routinely receives requests from horse-racing organizations and other governmental agencies for copies of regulations and details on California programs and CHRB policies.

Racing officials in some foreign countries are especially interested in learning about the procedures and responsibilities of stewards assigned by the Board to work at California racetracks. In 1998, two stewards from South Korea – Byong Jin Kim and Sang Rok Cho – spent one month with the stewards at Hollywood Park and Los Alamitos to learn more about how we do things in California.

“They must have liked the experience because one of them, Kim, came back and spent three more days with us last season at Santa Anita, and he brought along another steward, Hwang In-Wook,” said California steward Tom Ward.

On another occasion several years ago, two racing officials from Great Britain, Malcolm Wallace and Sim Harris, spent one week with Ward and the other stewards at Santa Anita.

“The British were mostly interested in our video and photo-finish systems,” explained Ward. “They were both quite impressed with our technology and our procedures, especially as they related to inquiries.

“The Koreans were interested in learning about everything — and I mean everything. They asked the most rudimentary questions about our different rules, about the placement of horses in disqualifications, about our medical problems, and so forth. They never did run out of questions. When they finally left us, the Koreans felt that California has the best racing in the country.”

(Continued on page 11)

CALENDAR

JUNE

- 11 – Fair meet opens in Stockton.**
- 25 – Fair meet opens in Pleasanton.**
- 26 – CHRB monthly meeting in Pleasanton.**

JULY

- 9 – Fair meet opens in Vallejo.**
- 23 – Fair meet opens in Santa Rosa.**
- 23 – Thoroughbred meet opens in Del Mar.**
- 24 – CHRB monthly meeting in Del Mar.**

THE EQUINE PRESCRIPTION

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHRB
EQUINE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



DR. RON JENSEN

Experts discussed several medication issues during the recent Association of Racing Commissioners International Convention in Seattle.

Dr. Scot Waterman, executive director of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC), reviewed the progress made to date by the consortium. Members of the consortium have pledged \$750,000 for the first year. Of that amount, \$500,000 has been earmarked for funding research. Dr. Waterman reported that requests for research proposals had been sent to all veterinary colleges and to other equine research institutions. He received 20 proposals.

SELECTING RESEARCH PROJECTS

RMTC will be able to fund only 9 or 10 of the proposals. The selection of the research projects to be funded will be determined by the Research Review Committee, chaired by Dr. Rick Arthur, a practicing veterinarian in Southern California and vice president of the Oak Tree Racing Association.

Dr. Arthur described the procedures that will be used in the selection process. He explained that the process is similar to the one used by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. The make-up of the committee includes scientists from academic institutions as well as practicing and non-academic veterinarians. Committee members will review the proposals individually, then meet as a group to discuss the merits of the proposals and to decide which ones to recommend to the RMTC board of directors. The board will make the final decision on the funding of proposals.

ESTABLISHING THRESHOLD LEVELS

Dr. Rick Sams, racing chemist from Ohio State University, outlined the consortium's procedure for establishing thresholds for certain therapeutic medications. Dr. Sams said the first step in trying to determine a threshold for a particular medication will be for a panel of scientists to review all of the available scientific literature concerning the drug. If the panel determines that there already is sufficient scientific evidence to establish a threshold, they will do so and recommend the threshold to the RMTC board of directors. If, however, the panel determines that there is not enough scientific evidence available to establish a threshold, the panel will recommend the type of additional research needed.

The panel members speaking about the RMTC emphasized that the role of the RMTC is to provide the funding necessary to generate sound science that racing regulators can use to make decisions concerning drug regulation and testing procedures. The final decisions regarding medication and testing rest with racing boards and commissions.

FOCUS ON GRADED STAKES

Andy Schweigardt, secretary for the Graded Stakes Committee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, outlined the TOBA suggestion that all graded stakes be subjected to increased drug testing as a requirement to maintain their graded status. It is the opinion of TOBA that graded stakes winners are very important to the thoroughbred breeding population, so they should be subjected to more stringent drug testing.

EIPH AND DMSO HOT TOPICS

The Drug Testing Standards and Practices Committee (DTS&P) of the ARCI also met during the convention. The committee and guests heard a report on the progress of research being done on erythropoietin by Dr. Ken McKeever of Rutgers University. They also learned of some early investigations on the possible effect of a new compound on reducing exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH).

An issue that generated considerable discussion during the DTS&P meeting was the concern about the intravenous use of a certain solvent, DMSO, close to race time that has anti-inflammatory properties and has been approved for topical use in horses and dogs. DMSO also is administered intravenously and orally for treating a variety of conditions in the horse.

There is concern that intravenous or oral administration may enhance the reported analgesic effect of the drug. A group of committee members consisting of veterinarians, pharmacologists, and chemists was formed to investigate the matter. This group was asked to determine if DMSO should be reclassified to a higher (stricter) level, and if a post-race level could be determined to distinguish between topical, intravenous, and oral administrations.





TOM WARD

It's All in the Family

This is the first in a series of articles focusing on the experience, character, and responsibilities of the racetrack stewards, who are under contract with the California Horse Racing Board to officiate at all horse-racing meets in the state.

With more than 35 years of experience as a racing official in California, Tom Ward is one of the most respected stewards in the country.

He officiates at the prestigious Southern California thoroughbred racetracks, handles many high-profile cases, and has been in the judges' stand for the last four Breeders' Cups run in California.

But if his father hadn't driven a dump truck one summer, probably none of this would have happened.

"My dad, William J. Ward, or 'Doc,' as most people knew him, was a podiatrist who ended up in racetrack management," explained Ward. "It went back to his university days when he earned money for tuition by driving a dump trunk and helping build Bay Meadows.

"The friendships and contacts my father made at that time paid off later when they asked him to join the management team at the northern tracks. He was assistant general manager at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields."

While growing up, Ward spent his summers working odd jobs around the racetrack, or as he described it, "doing a little bit of everything." After graduating from high school, he spent three years in college, including one year at Heald Business College, before deciding that his future was back at the racetrack.

Intent on becoming a steward, Ward started out in 1967 with the usual preliminary jobs, working in the racing office as an entry clerk in the mornings and as a placing or patrol judge during the races.

Ward's big break came four years later, when a new harness meet in Sacramento created an opening for a steward. That led to other assignments in the stand at harness, quarter-horse, thoroughbred, and fair meets throughout Northern California. He shifted to Southern California in 1986 and has worked all of the major meets since then.

"I've worked with the best," recalled Ward, "Ray Tremayne, Al Shelhamer, Ed Burke, Curly Smith, Jimmy Kilroe...some of the great names in the business. I'm still working with some of the best. They've all helped me along the way. I've learned something from all of them."

Each steward has his or her own, individual style and methods, some more effective than others at dispensing justice at the racetrack. Ward described his own way of doing things.

"I usually put myself in the shoes of the licensees who come before us, and often as not I prefer to give them a break," said Ward. "But we do have harsher penalties to use at our discretion when they are warranted."

Ward is struck by how much things have changed since his early years as a racing official.

"Licensees are far more likely to hire an attorney to represent them in administrative hearings, especially in high-profile drug cases," said Ward. "Complying with the administrative law process is a necessary burden that puts greater demands on us."

"The job has evolved, too. It's far more technical today. We must deal with simulcasting, merging pools, and Advance Deposit Wagering. And like so many professions, there's much more paperwork."

"The favorite part of my job has not changed much. I enjoy going over the race (videotape) with the rider, breaking the race down, and helping him or her understand the nature of any infraction. Hopefully, with such an understanding, jockeys learn from their mistakes. This makes them better riders and provides for the safety of others."

Ward and his wife of 36 years, Valerie, have three children, none of whom are following in their father's footsteps in horse racing. But Tom and Valerie also have one grandchild, so who knows? There could be another Ward in the stand someday.



BE OUR GUEST...



The California Horse Racing Board believes the best way to regulate an industry is to be fully informed. The CHRB regularly solicits input from the public and the horse-racing industry, and this guest editorial page is one more forum for that purpose.

This guest editorial was submitted by Dan Fick, who recently became executive vice president and executive director of The Jockey Club, after serving 18 years as executive director of racing for the American Quarter Horse Association.

California horse racing always has had a special appeal. Santa Anita was usually included in a trip to Disneyland back when I was growing up in Tucson. And later when I studied in the Race Track Industry Program at the University of Arizona, field trips to Hollywood Park actually were part of the curriculum.

When I went to work for the American Quarter Horse Association in 1981 as assistant director of racing, I quickly realized the history, importance, and impact of California on Quarter Horse racing. In addition to wanting to win the All American, everyone wanted to have a horse fast enough to get them to California.

My primary responsibility was editing the *Quarter Running Horse Chart Book*. It wasn't an easy job: In those days "cut and paste" actually meant cut and paste. Looking at the annual statistics one day, I discovered that 65% of Quarter Horse wagering was done in the Golden State. Reviewing the Los Alamitos charts was a trip through the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame.

In Texas and Oklahoma, pari-mutuel racing was still a battle to be won in the legislature. Racing was at bush tracks and fairgrounds in Del Rio, Goliad, Enid, Sallisaw, and Lubbock. I gained a tremendous insight into the sport and met the men and women who would take Quarter Horse racing into the next century. But it was at Los Alamitos that I first learned the business from Jim Smith, Bruce Rimbo, Dick Valles, the legendary Curly Smith, and especially Dr. Ed Allred.

When the Californians, Oklahomans, and Texans banded together in 1986 to encourage AQHA to form The Racing Council, great things began to happen for Quarter Horse racing. The first 10-member board of horsemen and track management included Curly, Bruce, and R D. Hubbard. The Council's vision and determination helped pass pari-mutuel legislation in Texas, developed the *Quarter Racing Journal*, and started the first cooperative marketing campaign for any breed.

Five years later, the Racing Challenge was started and MBNA America was signed on as the title sponsor. More

corporate sponsors for racing followed. Total purse money records were broken every year. After 50 years, Quarter Horse racing was finally being mentioned in the same breath as thoroughbreds and standardbreds.

After 21 years of helping steer Quarter-Horse racing in the right direction, I was given the opportunity to join The Jockey Club staff. Under the guidance of Hans Stahl and Alan Marzelli, The Jockey Club over that same time period affirmed its position as an industry leader in many vital areas, including technology. While leaving AQHA was difficult, I once again jumped at the chance to be part of a respected industry organization with a dedicated management team.

The Jockey Club and our "family of companies" — The Jockey Club Information Systems, InCompass, The Jockey Club Technology Services, Equibase, TrackMaster, and even our two foundations, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club Foundation — are dedicated to the improvement of thoroughbred breeding and racing.

In the new position, I am responsible for the operation of The Jockey Club Registry and also serve as a liaison to the racing industry. In the latter role, I will be involved in initiatives such as medication, wagering integrity, regulatory control, and legislative affairs. I look forward to being in California and working with Californians to enhance Thoroughbred horse racing.

I can never repay AQHA for the experiences I gained and opportunities I was given to make a difference for Quarter Horse racing. Nor will I forget the people and the Quarter Horse. They are both a very special and unique breed. The men and women who make Quarter Horse racing what it is do so obviously because they love the horse and the sport. But they also know the true meaning of friendship.

Those friendships, I feel certain, will be a part of my future as well as a part of my past. The AQHA and The Jockey Club have worked closely together for many years, and I'm sure we will continue to do so.

Fairplex Park Adds Training Races



(Fairplex Photographs
provided by Benoit and
Associates.)



To Its Integrated Equine Complex

You could say there's one-stop shopping at Fairplex Park – where a person can buy, train, and race a horse all at the same location.

The Los Angeles County Fair has been hosting a horse-racing meet at the Pomona Fairgrounds since 1922. In more recent years they've added a year-round training center and highly successful sales (auctions) of thoroughbreds.

The Barretts Equine Sales at Fairplex is recognized as the leading thoroughbred auction company on the West Coast. The most-recent March Sale established a world record for a 2-year-old thoroughbred in training with the sale of a Storm Cat colt for \$2.7 million.

Fairplex runs its 17-day fair meet during the latter half of September, immediately after the close of Del Mar. The rest of the year it remains open as a simulcast wagering facility.

The Fairplex training operation accounts for an average of 2.5 starters per day at major Southern California racetracks. One of the more interesting recent developments at Fairplex was the addition of training races for 2-year-olds preparing for their formal racing careers.

Each year, Santa Anita Park is the first Southern California racetrack to offer races for newly turned 2-year-olds. Fairplex, operating as a training center most of the year, has turned out its share of starters in those juvenile races at Santa Anita. But this year Fairplex went one step better by offering practice races for the youngsters.

Training races offer young horses an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a race-like atmosphere before entering pari-mutuel competition. Nearly 100 unraced 2-year-olds participated in four mornings of training heats this winter.

The "starters" were led to the receiving barn, saddled in the paddock, and accompanied to the starting gate by outriders, just as they would be for an actual race. A free breakfast ensured that horsemen and fans from the local community were on hand to watch the training races and root home the winners. Fairplex even arranged for "Call to the Post" by an on-site horn blower. Then after each race, the victors went to the winner's circle for photographs and trophy presentations.



YOUNG HORSES broke from the gate (upper left) and raced to the wire (lower left) in training races at Fairplex, giving them valuable experience in preparation for racing careers.



TRAINING RACES AT FAIRPLEX were as realistic as possible. All starters were saddled in the paddock, and trainers conferred with riders on racing strategy.

FREE BREAKFAST between training races brought the public and the racing community together in a festive atmosphere.



of backstretch workers, and to the many racing associations and fairs that provide additional staffing and financing. Most notable among these is the Oak Tree Racing Association.

All of the major racetracks have recreation centers that serve as central locations for folks to gather. Oak Tree donated \$850,000 to renovate the rec center at Santa Anita Park and contributes \$60,000 each year to staff the facility.

Bay Meadows included a large rec center in its \$20-million capital improvements project back in 1999. Del Mar, Golden Gate Fields, Hollywood Park, and the San Luis Rey Downs training facility also have small centers, though the more upscale trainer's lounge at Hollywood Park is increasingly being utilized by employees.

All of the rec centers have pool tables, video games, big-screen televisions, and lounge areas. They also have small general stores, where employees can purchase snacks and low-cost personal items without having to leave the grounds.

The Santa Anita facility houses a fully equipped workout gym as well as the Oak Tree Learning Center, containing computers and a diverse assortment of publications that include a book on financial management, a volume of 2,500 anecdotes, and Spanish-language newspapers.

These are the sites of many recreational tournaments – dominos, loteria (a form of Bingo), pool, poker, and Ping-Pong – and where workers watch (free of charge) rented videos and major pay-per-view sporting events, such as popular boxing matches.

But the range of activities for backstretch workers extends

far beyond the rec centers. They play organized soccer and basketball at nearby parks and in racetrack infields.

Most racetracks and fairs subsidize excursions to major sporting events and other fun and interesting places. Among other things, grooms at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate take field trips to San Francisco. Santa Anita workers try their hands at deep-sea fishing. Dodger baseball and Galaxy soccer games are on the schedule for Hollywood Park. And employees at Del Mar visit Sea World and the San Diego Zoo.

Organized picnics, barbeques, and dinners are particularly popular among those workers with families, especially when those gatherings are associated with holidays. The annual Christmas dinner at Santa Anita regularly attracts nearly a thousand employees and family members.

Bible-study meetings and religious services always are well attended by workers and their families.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Other activities are geared more to self-improvement. On-site English classes are conducted at Santa Anita, where many employees remain year-round, so their schedules can accommodate an ongoing educational program. Chaplains at the various racetracks arrange for tax experts to help educate workers in tax matters and help them with their annual filings. And informal classes on the computer are offered at the Oak Tree Learning Center.

The newest educational offering is the Groom Elite Program, designed to teach currently employed grooms and hot walkers advanced skills in caring for horses, as well as other



FEEDING THE HANDS THAT HELP — Jockeys at Santa Anita Park conducted their fourth annual barbecue for backstretch workers this year. More than 600 employees attended the afternoon lunch in the Santa Anita infield. The jockeys funded the event with the assistance of the Santa Anita chaplain. CHRB Chief Investigator Robert Nieto and Supervising Investigator Michael Kilpack joined with track security personnel in cooking the food. Serving up the dishes were (from left) jockeys Joe Steiner, Alex Solis, Jose Valdivia, Jr., and Luis Jauregui.

matters relating to personal hygiene and safety in the workplace. The Texas-based program got off to a successful local start during the recently concluded Santa Anita meet and is expected to continue at other racetracks in California.

OAK TREE PLAYS MAJOR ROLE

It is no accident that the Groom Elite Program kicked off at Santa Anita. Oak Tree provided half of the funding, and Oak Tree is based at the Arcadia track.

“We provide substantial funds for numerous programs throughout the state and throughout the entire country for

that matter,” explained Sherwood Chillingworth, executive vice president of Oak Tree. “Santa Anita is our home base, so it’s natural that we would spend a little extra here. But we intend to continue helping fund the Groom Elite Program at other tracks.”

Programs for workers are so varied and extensive at Santa Anita that management printed a 71-page review of the backstretch recreational facility and programs offered in 2002. The calendar listed recreational, educational, and religious activities on 335 days out of the year.

Pete Siberell, director of community service and special

THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE ‘ELITE’

There’s a new status symbol in horse racing. It’s a beige jacket with a colorful emblem identifying the wearer as a member of the exclusive “Groom Elite” club.

The first group of 50 grooms, hot walkers, and other employees in the California horse-racing industry attended a graduation ceremony March 25 at Santa Anita Race Track to receive jackets and certificates after completing four weeks of classes and passing a comprehensive examination.

The Groom Elite Program, which began two years ago in Texas, teaches stable-area employees proper horse-handling skills, ensuring they are competent and knowledgeable in equine care by covering such topics as equine anatomy, nutrition, equipment, soundness, and hoof care.

The local program, which includes additional information promoting hygiene and cleanliness in the workplace, was organized by the California Thoroughbred Trainers and funded in large part by the Oak Tree Racing Association and Edwin J. Gregon Foundation, with additional funds provided by the CTT and California Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

The Santa Anita classes were conducted on four consecutive Mondays and Tuesdays in the stable area kitchen by Dr. Reid McLellan, a trainer and former professor, with Spanish translation by Deacon Arnaldo Lopez. Angie Carmona administered the classes for the CTT.

A total of 69 workers, mostly grooms and hot walkers, attended the program. Of those, 60 met the minimum requirement of attending 80 percent of the classes, which the employees did on their own time. The 50 employees who passed the final test received certificates of completion along with beige jackets bearing a Groom Elite logo. Ten others received certificates of attendance.

Graduates indicated they participated in the program for self-improvement, including some hot walkers who are seeking promotion and higher pay as grooms.

One graduate, Eduardo Zamudio, 47, said he began

working around the barns in Mexico City as a child. He joined the program to improve his skills, adding, “If my children go to work at the track, I want to teach them the right way.”

Another graduate, 36-year-old Adriana Sierra, said she has been working as a groom for 15 years here and in her native Argentina. “I may have been doing something wrong during those 15 years,” she explained. “This way I understand why we do certain things and how we protect the horse.”

The health and safety of both horses and their handlers clearly were the dominant messages to the students during the four weeks of classes at Santa Anita.

“We’re teaching you the anatomy of the horse, so that you can work with it rather than against it,” Dr. McLellan lectured during a session on the application of leg wraps and bandages. “And understand this: If you make it easier on the horse, the horse will make more money for you!”

On another occasion, Reid addressed shedrow and backstretch safety, including proper procedures in the event of fire. Each student handled a fire extinguisher as part of this training.

Equine health issues, such as colic, founder, and lameness, highlighted another session. And the students learned how to correctly put on bridles and other equipment as well as the reasons for their use.

“I used to work with horses a long time ago, and now that I’m back I realize that some of the old ways have changed, especially the medicine,” said another student, 56-year-old Juan Banaga. “This class lets me keep up with the rest of the people. They teach me how to understand the horse.”

Other racetracks, including Hollywood Park, have expressed interest in offering the program at their facilities. Sherwood Chillingworth, executive vice president of Oak Tree, said his association is committed to the program and will help provide funds for its continuation at other tracks.



projects for the Los Angeles Turf Club, is the company man who watches over these activities at Santa Anita.

“We make sure the money for these programs is being distributed fairly and reasonably and going to the right place,” explained Siberell. “In addition to all of the scheduled programs, we have people from outside who request access to employees for matters ranging from immigration to labor to taxes. We provide space on the grounds for them to meet. We want to provide full access, but we also need to keep it under control.”

Siberell is a member of the Santa Anita Activities Committee, which meets monthly to discuss programs and services. The membership includes representatives of the CTT, California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation, Winners Foundation, Race Track Chaplaincy, the recreation center staff, track security, and members of the surrounding community in Arcadia, including the Catholic Church.

At one recent meeting of the committee, the members discussed a wide variety of matters relating to racetrack work-

ers. These included efforts to find shelter for a pony rider who recently had become homeless, arrangements for the annual employee barbeque, an update on the Groom Elite Program, food and clothing giveaways, the revised scheduled for Bible study, and plans to add more books and periodicals to the on-track library.

ACTIVITIES AT HOLLYWOOD PARK

With the shift of racing to Hollywood Park, track President Rick Baedeker outlined the schedule of activities for the spring-summer meet in Inglewood, including the annual Easter egg hunt, which is open to all backside workers and community residents, and the employee picnic.

“The picnic is an annual event that we have at the end of the meet in July,” explained Baedeker. “Over 550 workers and their family members are treated to an extensive barbeque meal, with all of the extras – games, prizes, music, and dancing.

“We’re particularly proud of providing year-round, permanent office space to the Race Track Chaplaincy of America, along with electricity, the phone system, and maintenance support for their offices. This is an important program that holds Christian interdenominational services. The staff also counsels troubled workers on a variety of personal problems, provides free food, clothing, and bedding to track workers, collects and delivers mail to the workers, and interprets for those who do not speak English.”

Baedeker went on to describe the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners that are so popular with employees and their families. “There are gifts and toys from Santa Claus for all of the kids at the Christmas party,” he said. “We hold the dinner in the Gold Cup Room. About 700 workers and their families attend. Everyone is treated like royalty for the day.”

At the California Exposition and State Fair, backstretch workers enjoy the annual Hispanic Cultural Day, concerts, and rodeo events, all free of charge to employees and their families.

CTT OVERSEES PROGRAMS

The CTT is the linchpin for all of these activities at racetracks throughout the state. It suggests, organizes, administers, and arranges for financing of the programs with its own funds and with funds raised from the racing associations and other sources.

Ed Halpern, executive director of the trainers group, explained that Angie Carmona, the CTT southern director, coordinates programs in Southern California. Charlie Dougherty, Jr., the Northern California director, handles things up north, with the help of Terry Houghton and Rob Cochran. Javier Gonzales is the recreation hall and gym supervisor at Santa Anita. Laura Rosier coordinates the CTT programs for workers at San Luis Rey Downs.

“In an attempt to keep backstretch workers’ expenses



GETTING IT RIGHT — The Groom Elite Program teaches currently employed grooms and other race-track workers the correct way to care for horses. In one session, grooms (from left) Jose A. Campos, Eulojio Quinteros, and Maria O. Garcia practiced applying leg wraps and bandages.

down, we run non-profit snack and sundry shops at Santa Anita, Golden Gate, Bay Meadows, and Del Mar,” said Halpern. “We also created, administer, and raise funds for the Edwin J. Gregson Foundation, which provides financial support for programs and scholarships for backstretch workers and their children.

“The CTT administers a pension fund for all trainers and backstretch workers, in which there are over 3,300 participants. This fund offers retirement and disability benefits at no cost to the participants, as it is paid for by purse money. We also sponsor an immigration and naturalization program, bringing in up to 500 temporary foreign workers each year.

“Many programs and activities are made possible by contributions from each of the racing associations. In most cases they provide financial support and facilities for the activities. Medical, dental, and vision services are provided by the California Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Foundation, which was formed pursuant to law by the California trainers.”

Halpern said the Christmas parties at Hollywood Park, Santa Anita, and Golden Gate are joint efforts primarily between the CTT and the tracks. Generally held one week before Christmas, the cost of these elaborate events is split between the tracks and the CTT.

Elaborating on Halpern’s comments, Dougherty said workers at Bay Meadows and Golden Gate enjoy Thanksgiving meals at those two facilities, and workers at both tracks get together for one Christmas dinner party at Golden Gate. The cost is divided evenly between the CTT, Bay Meadows, and Golden Gate. CTT also pays for a Thanksgiving meal for the backstretch community at Pleasanton.

While the CTT has the primary responsibility for backstretch programs, the Thoroughbred Owners of California lends a hand by contributing money to help with the CTT Christmas parties, supporting the Gregson Foundation, and helping the CTT in other ways.



***Articles and photographs
appropriate for CHRB News &
Review may be submitted to
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COMINGS AND GOINGS AT THE CHRB

Mary Grande, a Business Services Assistant in the CHRB Sacramento headquarters office since 1997, has accepted a training and development assignment with the Wildlife Conservation Board in the Department of Fish and Game.

Mary came to the Board in 1994 on a temporary basis, then she transferred to a permanent position in 1997. Mary became the lead person in the Office Services Unit, with responsibilities for the distribution of Board materials, processing travel expense claims, and other important office functions.

Samantha Smith, who began State service early in 2002 as a racing license technician at CHRB headquarters, transferred to the Department of Consumer Affairs in April.

CALIFORNIA (Continued from page 2)

Tony Chamblin, former president of the Association of Racing Commissioners International, once described California’s position among racing jurisdictions in the United States this way:

“It always seems that California has something important to share with the other commissions,” Chamblin said following an ARCI regional meeting held in California in 1997. “The CHRB regulates more horse-race tracks than any other regulatory jurisdiction in North America. The CHRB does an excellent job of combining its regulatory function with its secondary role of helping preserve the health of the state’s racing industry. All of this being the case, naturally most other state regulatory agencies are interested in developments in California.”



***Please help us enforce
California’s racing rules.
Call (800) 805-7223 to
report any violations.***

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